

Washington State
Health Care Authority
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Public Employees
Benefits Board
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www.wa.gov/hca/pebb.htm

Interactive open enrollment in 2002 – Use your computer to change plans

PEBB open enrollment will be more interactive than ever before. Most retirees will have the ability to change plans online and locate their doctor. In most instances, you will also be able to evaluate the plans available to you, based on your criteria. The various online tools are available at the PEBB Web site at www.wa.gov/hca/pebb.htm.



Compare -a-Plan

A sophisticated new online tool, called Compare-a-Plan, will help you determine which plan is best for you. Using criteria such as customer service, experiences of other consumers, and preventive care services, Compare-a-Plan will be able to evaluate the plans available to you based on the importance you assign each of the various criteria.



Once you have used Compare-a-Plan to determine the plans that will work best for you, you'll be able to use the Internet Provider Directory on the Health Care Authority's Web site to find doctors that will contract with the medical plan you want to enroll in for 2002 coverage. You'll also be able to find the physician or clinic code required on the *2002 Medical and Dental Coverage* form or the e-coverage form if you are changing health plans.

The 2002 open enrollment will be the first year most PEBB retirees will be able change their plan online (some plan changes will require the use of special forms that cannot be submitted online).

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To obtain this document in another format or to request special accommodations, call our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 360-923-2805. TTY users (deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired), call 360-923-2701 or call toll-free 1-888-923-5622.

Important Dates

October 23

Open enrollment benefits fairs begin. Look for the schedule with dates, times, and locations in this issue!

October 22- November 30

2002 open enrollment — your chance to change medical and/or dental plans, and add family members to your coverage.

Save \$\$ on prescription drugs

If you take certain prescriptions regularly, you may be able to save money by using your plan's **mail-order prescription drug program**. Contact your plan for details.

Also, when your doctor prescribes medication, ask if a lower-cost generic drug or drug from your medical plan's formulary (a list of approved prescription drugs that the plan will cover) will work just as well as a more expensive brand-name drug.

Interactive open enrollment *(continued)*

The online option, known as e-coverage, will also allow you to:

- See what you're currently paying for coverage (your monthly premium) and which family members are enrolled in your plan.
- Find out if your current medical plan is available in your area in 2002. You'll also see what other plans are available to you.
- Find out what your current plan, as well as the other Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) plans, will cost in 2002.



- Enroll yourself and your family in a different medical plan for 2002 coverage.

Be sure to try out the new interactive enrollment features at www.wa.gov/hca/pebb.htm. As always, we have taken the necessary steps to ensure that only the HCA, as well as your medical and/or dental plan have access to the information you submit through e-coverage.

We appreciate your patience during open enrollment!

During open enrollment, we receive approximately three times as many phone calls as the rest of the year. If our benefits specialists are helping other customers when you call, please be patient. A benefits specialist will answer your call as soon as possible.

Benefits fairs schedule

If you'd like to find out more about PEBB health plans, visit a benefits fair in your area.
The times and places are listed below.

For more information on the PEBB program, you'll want to attend
a **retiree session** (times and places are **printed in bold** below).

Aberdeen

November 13, 2001

1 to 3 p.m.

Grays Harbor Comm. College
Hillier Union Bldg. (HUB)
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive

☛ **1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**
Room 15-12

Bellingham

November 8, 2001

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Western WA University
Fairhaven Admin. Lounge

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**
Chart Room

Bremerton

November 2, 2001

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Olympic Comm. College
Bremerton Student Ctr.
North & South Conference
Rooms 139 & 140
1600 Chester Avenue

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**
Art Room 103

Centralia

November 13, 2001

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Centralia Comm. College
Walnut & South Iron
Gymnasium

Cheney

October 25, 2001

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Eastern WA University
Louise Anderson Hall
1st floor lounge
Elm Street

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**
Pub Room 263, 265, 267

Ellensburg

October 31, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Central WA University
SUB Pit
400 East 8th Avenue

☛ **12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**
Yakima Room

Everett

November 9, 2001

12 to 3 p.m.

Everett Comm. College
Jackson Center
2000 Tower

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**
Multipurpose Room

Kirkland

November 5, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lake WA Tech. College
11605-132nd Avenue NE
Room W401

☛ **12 to 1 p.m.**
W404A&B Theatre

Lacey

October 29, 2001

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Saint Martin's College
Worthington Conf. Center
5300 Pacific Avenue SE

☛ **1 to 2 p.m. and**
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Longview

November 14, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lower Columbia College
Student Center
Conf. Rooms A, B, & C
1600 Maple

☛ **12 to 1 p.m.**
Theatre

Medical Lake

October 26, 2001

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Eastern State Hospital
Activities Therapy Building
Mezzanine Area
Fir Street

Moses Lake

October 30, 2001

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Big Bend Comm.
College
Building 1400
Student Auditorium
7662 Chanute Street

Mt. Vernon

November 7, 2001

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Skagit Valley Comm. College
Student Lounge
2405 College Way

Olympia

November 6, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Transportation Bldg. Lobby
310 Maple Park

Pasco

November 8, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Columbia Basin College
HUB West Dining Room
North Campus Loop

☛ **11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Work Force Training Center,
Room W-180

Port Angeles

November 1, 2001

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vern Burton Community Center
308 E. 4th

(Corner of 4th and Peabody)

☛ **11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
Gym

Pullman

October 23, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WA State University
French Admin. Building
Stadium Way & Wilson Road

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**

Gladish School, Old Library
(3rd floor)

October 24, 2001

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WA State University
French Admin. Building
Stadium Way & Wilson Road

Seattle

October 23, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of WA
Harborview Medical Center
Research and Training Bldg.

Lobby

325 Ninth Avenue

October 24, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UW Medical Center
1959 NE Pacific
Health Sciences Lobbies

October 25, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of WA
HUB West Ballroom

☛ **1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

HUB Room 108

November 15, 2001

2 to 5 p.m.

North Seattle Dept. of
Transportation
Cafeteria

15700 Dayton Ave. North

Spokane

November 5, 2001

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WA State University
Academic 1 Building
668 North Riverpoint Blvd.

November 6, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spokane Comm. College
Lair Student Center
1810 Greene Street

☛ **10 to 11 a.m.**

Auditorium

Tacoma

October 26, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bates Technical College
South Campus Bldg. A
Exhibitors' Breezeways

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**

Room 206

Tumwater

November 16, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

L&I Auditorium
7273 Linderson Way

Vancouver

October 30, 2001

10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Clark College – Gaiser Hall
Central Concourse

1800 East McLoughlin Blvd.

☛ **1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

Central Gaiser Conf. Room

Walla Walla

November 7, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Walla Walla Comm. College
Main Bldg., Back Dining Room
500 Tausick Way

☛ **11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Wenatchee

November 1, 2001

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wenatchee Valley College
Campus Theatre/Wells Hall
1300 Fifth Street

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**

Yakima

October 29, 2001

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Yakima DoubleTree
1507 North 1st Street

☛ **1 to 2 p.m.**

Coming up: Benefit, cost, and plan changes in 2002 PEBB coverage

Every year, changes occur in benefits, cost, and plan availability. Here is a run-down of changes PEBB enrollees can expect for the 2002 plan year. More information will be available when open enrollment materials are mailed out in October, including specific information about monthly premium changes for the plans available to you. Updates will also be available on the PEBB Web site at www.wa.gov/hca/pebb.htm.

Benefit changes

The following benefit changes will take effect January 1, 2002.

Mental health outpatient care will be subject to a \$10 copay (paid at 90% for Uniform Medical Plan [UMP]), and inpatient care will be subject to a \$200 per day copay, up to a maximum copay of \$600. The annual limits will remain the same: 20 outpatient visits, and 10 inpatient days per year. The current benefit provides 80% reimbursement for inpatient care and 50% reimbursement for outpatient care.

Inpatient hospital copay will increase from \$100 to \$200 per day. The three-day annual maximum copay remains the same.

Outpatient surgery facility copay will increase from \$20 to \$100 (does not apply to UMP).

Emergency room copay will increase from \$50 to \$75.

Ground ambulance copay will increase from \$50 to \$75 (does not apply to the UMP).

Up to 15 bone marrow donor searches will be covered. No such coverage was available in the past.

The Uniform Medical Plan pharmacy benefit will change to 80% reimbursement for generic, insulin, and disposable diabetic supplies purchased at a retail pharmacy. The current reimbursement level is 90%. The same tier of prescription drugs will be reduced to a \$5 copay through the UMP mail-order prescription drug program. The current copay for this tier is \$20.

Plan availability and name changes

Regence BlueShield (formerly Northwest Washington Medical Bureau) will not be available in 2002. While other plans will remain with PEBB in 2002, some will modify the geographic locations they serve. Be sure to review the open enrollment materials mailed to you. If your medical plan is no longer available where you live, you will need to select a different plan.

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Getting your questions answered quickly

When you call the PEBB program at 1-800-200-1004, our phone system will help you get your questions answered as quickly as possible.

Press 1 for:

- Automated enrollment information
- Payment information

Press 2 for:

- Address changes
- Benefit and eligibility questions
- Application requests

Press 3 for:

- All other questions

**Be sure
to watch
for your
2002 open
enrollment
packet in
the mail!**



**Open
enrollment
October 22 –
November 30**

Changes *(continued)*

Otherwise, you will automatically be disenrolled from the PEBB program.


Several plans have changed their names, or will do so prior to the 2002 plan year. Options Health Care, Inc. has changed its name to Group Health Options, Inc. Also in 2002, Premera Blue Cross will have two types of medical plans with similar names: Premera BC/MSC (an extended network managed-care plan) and Premera BC/HealthPlus (a standard managed care plan). Your open enrollment materials will further explain how these plans differ.

Elimination of dual coverage

Previously, two PEBB enrollees who were married or filed declarations as same-sex domestic partners had the option of dual coverage. This allowed the employees/retirees to cover each other and/or their family members. This option will be eliminated in 2002. The change will affect very few retirees.

**Open Enrollment is
Coming Soon!**

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DEPARTMENT OF
PRINTING


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